

7TH ST. URGED AS TRAFFIC CIRCUIT

Widening Instead of Eighth Backed as Attractive Plan

ADVANTAGES EXPLAINED

Subcommittee of Comprehensive Plans Committee Hears Bankers and Others

The widening of Seventh street instead of Eighth, in creating a central subway traffic circuit, was urged at a meeting of the subcommittee of the Comprehensive Plans Committee in the office of Chief Albricht, of the Survey Bureau, City Hall.

Among those who spoke in favor of the change were Effingham H. Morris, president of the Girard Trust Company; G. C. Purves, president of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society, and Cyrus H. K. Curtis.

It was explained that the widening of Seventh street would cost less than that of Eighth street, that it would present a more attractive view and that there were many other reasons why it should be selected.

The plans for the traffic circuit provide for the widening of Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Race streets, but Mr. Morris presented a series of reasons, which he had previously embodied in a circular letter, why Seventh street should be selected.

While Eighth street follows the line of the subway loop, he said, along other sections of the route the surface and underground traffic lines were not identical, so there was no reason on that score why Seventh street should not be widened.

LITTLE FEAR OF CONGESTION

Engineers of the Department of City Transit say that the subway can be constructed under Eighth street without its being widened, according to Mr. Morris, and that the only place where there might be traffic congestion at a subway station, if Seventh street were substituted, is at Eighth and Market streets.

Mr. Morris explained, by the creation of an open plaza through the condemnation and removal of buildings at the southeast corner of Eighth and Market streets. Respecting this he said:

This could be done at a fraction of the expense to the city involved by the widening of Eighth street by condemning all the buildings on the east side of the street between Locust and Race for a depth of 100 feet. The station at Locust street would have the increased width of that street in which to take care of congestion, if any, at that point.

FAVORS STREET ENLARGEMENT

In a general way, Mr. Morris continued, the wide traffic streets should be based on Washington and Franklin squares. This could be effected by widening Seventh street and it would not be necessary to widen Washington square. The foot pavement on the western side he considered unnecessarily broad, so that it might readily be reduced to permit the enlargement of the street. Mr. Morris added:

These squares are the natural bases for the purpose, and to locate a widened highway just west of them upon Eighth street is to ignore their evident possibilities for adding to the beauty of the city.

Seventh street is now interrupted by logs or breaks in its continuous line at both of these squares, and all that is necessary is to take care of the logs on Seventh street from Walnut to Race and thus make a wide, continuous prospect between the two squares, whereas if the present plan of widening Eighth street upon its east side is adhered to there will be a narrow fringe of buildings remaining between Eighth street and Washington square, which will be most unfortunate.

WOULD GIVE FINE VISTA

By basing the widened street on Washington square, added Mr. Morris, there would be a fine vista afforded of Independence square and the magnificent buildings fronting it. On the other hand, he said, if Eighth street were widened on its east side, the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society would be prevented from extending its future, as well as necessary in the future. He continued:

As this society now has 300,000 depositors, it means that one person in every six of the present population of Philadelphia is interested in transacting business there, and suitable accommodation must be provided for its regular future growth, as it is a quasi-public institution.

The subcommittee was told by Mr. Curtis of plans for the improvement of Chestnut street by the erection of the Lehigh river paper plant between Sixth and Seventh streets, to include a large auditorium, in which would be placed the finest organ in America. This auditorium would afford music of the highest class for people of moderate means.

In supporting the argument of Mr. Morris and Mr. Curtis for the widening of Seventh street, Mr. Purves suggested that Eighth street should be substituted for Sixth street on the west. If this were done, he pointed out, the surface circuit would be based on Rittenhouse and Logan squares, as well as Washington and Franklin.

The change from Sixth to Eighth street would mean that the western side of the traffic circuit, which would be in front of the Cathedral, opposite Logan square. As thousands of persons visit the Cathedral some days, the improved thoroughfare at that point would be particularly appreciated.

Another meeting of the subcommittee, of which John Hall Rankin is chairman, will be held next Thursday morning, after which it is probable that a meeting of the entire Comprehensive Plans Committee will be called to consider the proposed change.

PAINTER CONFESSES THEFT

Admits Stealing Tool Chest, and Other Robberies Are Partly Cleared

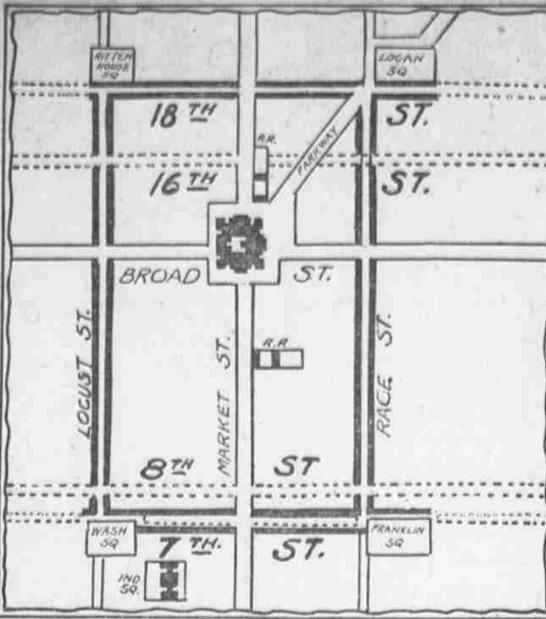
Thefts from building operations in the northern part of the city, to the extent of several thousand dollars, were partly cleared today in the arrest of Alfred James, of 174 Jones avenue, a painter and decorator.

In James's cellar, the police of the Branchtown station say, they found valuable material stolen from contractors. The painter was arrested on charges brought by George Horvath, of 438 DuPont street, who asserted that James had taken a \$100 tool chest.

The defendant confessed to this theft at a hearing this morning before Magistrate Penneck, at which he was held under \$100 bail, and police are endeavoring to find the owners of the material found in his cellar.

Er-Mayor Merritt, of Reading, Dies

PLAN TO WIDEN SEVENTH STREET



The latest proposition in the projected widening of streets in the city's business district is to extend Seventh and Eighteenth streets instead of Eighth and Sixteenth between Locust and Race streets. Among the advantages claimed for widening Seventh street is that it would do away with the bends at Franklin Square and at Washington Square. The proposed plan would have a park square at each corner. Those on Eighteenth street would be Rittenhouse and Logan Squares.

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

A FALSE-ALARM FIEND was hoaxed in West Philadelphia early this morning. A firebox at Fifty-ninth street and Girard avenue was pulled and seven pieces of fire-fighting apparatus responded. False calls have been received from all parts of West Philadelphia for more than a year.

FORTY-SIXTH WARD anti-buffers have organized a building and loan association following out the suggestion of Harry A. Mackey, ward leader, made a number of months ago. The association will take the place of the usual political club.

HEAT PROSTRATION caused the collapse of Francis S. Ferguson, of Philadelphia, who is in a serious condition at the University Hospital in Baltimore. He was found unconscious while sleeping in a room with a red hot stove. His case is the first heat prostration since last summer.

CRUSHED BY ONE street car while boarding another, Motorman Antonio Delo, of the Germantown avenue line, is in a serious condition in the Germantown Hospital. He was about to start out on his regular run early this morning, and was just about to get on his car at the Pelham barn when he was struck by a car on an adjoining track. His chest was badly crushed. Delo's home is at 45 Orchard street.

ILL-HEALTH AND FAILURE to find work were assigned today as the cause for the suicide of John W. Hillier, thirty-seven years old, who inhaled gas last night at his home, 2424 South Camac street. Hillier told his father and brothers he was going to work early this morning, and followed him two hours later they found him dead in a gas-filled room.

A SKYLIGHT SUIT failed to keep Albert Rosenthal, an artist of 172 Walnut street, from getting all the light he wants in his studio. He had planned to build a skylight over his studio, but an adjoining neighbor, who said the plan would interfere with his sleeping porch. The injunction has been dismissed.

A CRUISER to carry wine and other commodities from Palestine vineyards to Jaffa, or some Italian port, has been reported by Congressman Moore in a letter to Secretary Daniels. The measure was urged at the instance of representative Jews, who wish to relieve starving Jews in other countries by the release of commodities held up in Palestine by blockade.

THE NINETEEN BOYS' CLUB entertained more than 300 youngsters at their clubhouse, Hunting Park avenue, and Clarissa street. Christmas presents were distributed and an entertainment was given.

SHOT PROVED FATAL to Joseph Hayward, a negro, thirty-two years old, who was confined to hospital today. He was shot by his wife, Sallie Hayward, at his home, 1642 Lombard street, Christmas.

COMMANDANT ROBERT LEE RUSSELL, of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, is confined to his home by tonsillitis and the grip, and his aide, Lieutenant Commander Allen, is in charge of the yard.

LIGGETT-RIKER-HEGEMAN drug-store officials and employees tendered a farewell dinner to E. E. Burlingame, manager of the eighteen stores in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, at the Hotel Adelphi last night. He has been transferred to New York. The speakers included W. C. West and John S. Alley, vice presidents of the corporation; R. H. Taylor, John P. Frey, Robert Jones and E. S. Edmundson.

A SUICIDE IN MIDOCEAN was reported by the steamer "New York," which has arrived in this port from Bordeaux, France. Officers said that after preparing Christmas dinner for them, William Mora, Japanese steward, committed suicide by leaping overboard.

AUTO LICENSE TAGS FOR 1917 must not be used before New Year's Day, according to a warning issued to motorists by the Superintendent of Police Robinson. He said a violation of the rules would mean arrest for the offender.

PHILADELPHIA CLAIM MEN'S ASSOCIATION, at its annual meeting in the Arcadia Cafe, elected officers as follows: James B. Douglas, president; Owen Booth, vice president; William F. Marshall, treasurer, and James P. Conner, secretary.

UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING has been endorsed by the Major Benjamin C. Tighman, Jr., Camp of Spanish War Veterans. The annual banquet of the organization was held in the Rosemont Cafe. The principal speakers were General William G. Price, Jr., commanding the First Brigade, N. G. P.; General Charles T. Creswell, who commanded the Third Brigade in the Spanish war, and Colonel George E. Kemp, present commander of the regiment.

THE OMEGA SIGMA CLUB will give its annual dance on Wednesday, January 17, at the Belfield Country Club.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION of the local Union of Federal Employees, will be effected tonight at a meeting of the union in the Parkway Building, Broad and Cherry streets. A charter has been granted the body by the American Federation of Labor, sixty-seven charter members having enrolled at the first meeting on December 8.

JUDGE MARTIN, of Common Pleas Court No. 2, has drafted a bill for the aid of destitute families of persons in prison. The bill, which probably will be introduced at the next session of the Legislature, would authorize the city to make appropriations for the support of such families.

INTENSE SUFFERING of Carl Kupper, an aged attendant at the Philadelphia General Hospital, from inability to breathe, was ended today by his death. He was sixty-eight years old.

CITY TREASURER William McCooch, formerly national treasurer of the Master Plumbers' Association, was fined \$100 and costs in the United States Court in Pittsburgh, on charges of conspiracy to violate the Sherman anti-trust law. With S. Louis Barnes, former national president; B. F. Durkin, of Philadelphia, and thirty other defendants, Mr. McCooch pleaded guilty yesterday.

BILIARD PLAYERS and bowlers will experience an additional rise in the high cost of living, according to Collector of Internal Revenue Ephraim Lederer. An addition to the Federal Revenue act provides that after January 1 a tax of 45 cents shall be levied on all pool and billiard tables and on bowling alleys. The new order will mean an additional \$6000 to the revenues of the city.

JAMES T. CORTELYOU, chief postal inspector, issued a warning against oil and automobile stockholders in Philadelphia before the meeting of the Philadelphia Carpet and Rug Association in the Bingham Hotel. Mr. Cortelyou said that swindlers were unusually active at this time, owing to the prosperous condition of the country.

CLEANING A REVOLVER nearly proved fatal to Walter Kask, twenty-three years old, of 925 Birch street, today. He was accidentally discharged. A bullet pierced his hand. He is in the Cooper Hospital.

FALLING THIRTY FEET into a coal hole of a factory, Robert George Whelan, a farmer, of Blackwood, N. J., was seriously injured. He was taken to the Cooper Hospital suffering from contusions and internal injuries. The accident occurred when he walked away from his team and failed to notice that the trapdoor was open.

FOUND UNCONSCIOUS near the Federal street ferry house early this morning, George Swason, thirty-eight years old, a carpenter of Beverly, was revived at the Cooper Hospital. The accident occurred from laudanum poisoning. He admitted to physicians he had taken it himself, but would not give any reason for attempting suicide. It is expected he will recover.

J. B. VAN SOEVER, of the J. B. Van Soever Company, has purchased the Camden residence on Lehighen pike, Chestnut Hill, with twenty-three acres of ground. The purchase price was not stipulated, although with thirty acres of land the property was held for sale at \$200,000. The sale was made by Harbert & Claghorn for F. H. Bohlen and others.

Brown Congratulates Albany Bar

LANCASTER, Dec. 29.—Chief Justice J. Hay Brown, of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, sitting in his Orange street home last night, delivered a congratulatory address over the telephone to the members of the Albany County Bar Association in Albany, Justice Brydson being the guest of honor at the other end of the line as he brought his address to a close.

F. H. Adler to Wed Miss Erdman

Mrs. Preston K. Erdman, of 5922 Green street, Germantown, announces the engagement of her daughter, Miss Sara, without Mr. Adler, to Mr. Francis Heed Adler, son of Dr. and Mrs. Lewis H. Adler, Jr., of the Belgravia.

TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

DEATHS

HILL.—Dec. 28, MARGARET B., eldest daughter of Margaret and the late S. J. Hill, Relatives and friends invited to funeral services, this P. M. 10 o'clock, at 2718 S. 27th St. Burial Laurel Hill Cemetery.

HUGHES.—Dec. 28, HARRY W., Madison Heights, N. J., son of Mrs. M. J. Hughes and the late Sarah Edgar, nee Corbitt. Notice of funeral later.

MAUD.—Dec. 27, MAUD, wife of James A. Wick, aged 44. Relatives and friends invited to funeral services, this P. M. 10 o'clock, at 1500 Locust St. Burial Greenwood Cemetery. Remains may be viewed at home.

REBECCA.—Dec. 28, REBECCA BOWEN, wife of J. B. Bowen, of 1500 Locust St. Relatives and friends invited to funeral services, this P. M. 10 o'clock, at 1500 Locust St. Burial Greenwood Cemetery. Remains may be viewed at home.

STIRNIS.—Dec. 28, STIRNIS D., widow of Robert J. Stirnis and daughter of the late John Stirnis, of 1500 Locust St. Relatives and friends invited to funeral services, this P. M. 10 o'clock, at 1500 Locust St. Burial Greenwood Cemetery. Remains may be viewed at home.

WILLIAM.—Dec. 28, WILLIAM F., son of Mrs. W. F. Williams and the late W. F. Williams, of 1500 Locust St. Relatives and friends invited to funeral services, this P. M. 10 o'clock, at 1500 Locust St. Burial Greenwood Cemetery. Remains may be viewed at home.

HELP WANTED-FEMALE

SEVENTEEN-year-old girl, with some high school education. Ready, willing, energetic. Apply to Mrs. J. H. Taylor, 1500 Locust St. Phone 1000.

COOPER TO DEFEND HIS RECEIVERSHIP

Judge Thompson Will Hear Union Casualty Case Next Tuesday

HAS FILED NO ANSWER

State Hopes to Upset Appointment and Thus Secure Jurisdiction

Another chapter in the Insurance Department's fight to clean up insurance conditions in Pennsylvania will be closed next Tuesday when Judge Thompson, of the United States District Court, will hear Samuel W. Cooper's defense as to why he should not give up the receivership of the Union Casualty Company to which he was appointed.

When Judge Thompson granted that receivership at the request of the company he did not know that the State was pushing a similar action in the Dauphin County courts at Harrisburg. Hence, his order to make Cooper show cause as to why he should retain the appointment.

The Union Casualty Company, like the Pennsylvanian Life Insurance Company, is controlled by Lyndon D. Wood and his associates, who also control the Consolidated Investment Company, which was designated as a holding company for many insurance concerns.

Wood succeeded in having the Federal Court in Pittsburgh appoint a friendly receiver in the case of the Pension Mutual Life Insurance Company, and expressed indignation that it should have been ordered at all.

ANSWER NOT YET MADE

Kun went on to say that the Union Casualty Company had by yet filed no answer to the State's declaration in the Federal Court here, and he assumed that if there were any answer to make it would already have been made. The Union Casualty may elect to make its arguments without filing a written answer, he said, but the custom is to make a written answer if there is anything at all to say.

It is probable that Judge Thompson will ask Judge Dickinson to sit with him when the arguments are made, just as the Pittsburgh judge who granted the receivership in the Pension Mutual case called in his colleague.

Cooper will be represented in court by J. Howard Reber. Reber is ill at his home today.

The Dauphin County courts have named Insurance Commissioner J. Denny O'Neil to be receiver for both companies, and have ordered the dissolution of both companies. The Federal Court here and the Union Casualty is already going ahead, and Receiver Donaldson, who is acting for O'Neil, has reported that the company is in worse shape than even O'Neil imagined.

If the Federal court here vacates the appointment of Cooper and allows the State full jurisdiction, O'Neil will immediately take the company into receivership. In the case of the Pension Mutual the agents for alleged violations of the insurance laws of the neighboring State.

Information reached this city yesterday that the New York State Insurance Department was conducting an investigation into the operations of the Pension Mutual Life Insurance Company, with a view to the removal of its assets to New York.

ACCUSED OF SENDING BLACK-HAND LETTERS

Three Men Arrested in Camden on Charge of Terrorizing Merchants

Three Italians, said by the police to have confessed to black hand operations in Philadelphia and Camden, and wanted by the authorities in New York, Newark and several other cities, were arraigned before Recorder Stachhouse in Camden today; they were held without bail for court. If found guilty, they may be sentenced to fifteen years each.

According to the police, the case is one of the most unusual of its kind they ever have handled. Sums varying from \$500 to \$1500 were asked from prosperous Italian merchants in Camden in exchange for letters, in which the writer apologized for not giving more time to the intended victim, and for the trouble which the black handers were causing him. The money in each instance was to be left near a Catholic cemetery in Philadelphia and on the stroke of midnight.

The men arraigned all live in Camden. They are Salvatore Surlani, thirty-five years old, of 308 Royden street; Frank Cardile, twenty-four, of 444 South Twenty-one, of 329 Berkeley street.

According to the police, Surlani is the leader of a band of more than fifteen Italians, who have been operating on a wholesale scale in Camden, and have been writing letters to many Camden merchants. The other two, the police say, confessed to mailing the letters.

Paris Merchant Prince Dead

PARIS, Dec. 29.—Georges Dufayel, founder of the large Paris stores bearing his name, is dead.

Chester Councilmen to Dine Here

CHESTER, Pa., Dec. 29.—Members of City Council are planning a "get-together" dinner, to be followed by a theatre party. It will take place in Philadelphia January 8.

The LOCOMOBILE at the Salon

Fourteen examples of Fine Coach Work, individually designed and built to order. At the Salon only, Hotel Astor, New York, January 2nd to 10th.



STATE TEACHERS ASK \$50 MINIMUM SALARY

Pennsylvania Educational Association Also Wants Appropriation Boosted to \$18,000,000

SHIP FROM HERE AMONG 5 MISSING

Georgic, With American Hostlers, Thought Raider's Victim

CARGO'S VALUE \$250,000

Vessel, Long Overdue, Was in Waters Where Submarines May Have Lurked

The report of the resolution committee, which was submitted at the close of one of the largest educational meetings ever held in this State, and its adoption is expected to have a big effect on legislation at the coming session and the future school development in the State.

On the committee were William D. Lewis, chairman, Philadelphia; C. B. Robertson, Pittsburgh; T. R. Davis, Altoona; A. C. Itherton, Kutztown, and H. B. Work, Philadelphia.

A summary of the resolutions as presented and adopted follows:

That the minimum school term be eight months.

That the biennial State appropriation be increased to \$18,000,000.

That wherever possible rural schools be consolidated.

That the good roads movement be supported.

That to equalize public school education in the State, State aid be increased to districts needing it most.

That the minimum salary to teachers who are graduates of normal schools shall be \$50.

That the appropriation to township high schools be increased to the maximum allowed by law.

That minimum salaries for county superintendents be \$2669 a year; of assistants, \$1800.

That the special appropriations for vocational and continuation schools be continued, and an appropriation be made for evening schools.

Mined Liner's Survivors Reach Port

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—One hundred and twenty-six women and children, survivors of the Russian-American steamship Kurak, which struck a mine off the Scottish coast November 29 and was converted to a life preserver today by the Red Star liner Lapland.

To this list must be added the Voltair.

Est. 1879

Georges "Clothing—That's All"

15th & Chestnut

Announce

January Reductions

Throughout the Entire Stocks of SUITS & OVERCOATS

For Men & Young Men

(Excepting only plain blacks and evening dress clothes).

In Effect Friday, Dec. 29th

Regardless of the present high cost of production and the rising prices of fabrics—we adhere to our policy never to carry goods from one season into the next—and with larger stocks and assortments than ever before shown in the store, we present—

Our Regular Semi-Annual

Mark Down Sale

Established to Clear Racks

A money-saving clothes-buying opportunity, waited for each season by thousands of Georges customers and worthy of immediate attention of every critical man and young man in Philadelphia.

Suits & Overcoats Re-priced as Follows:

\$15.00 Grades, now \$12.50

\$18.00 Grades, now \$14.50

\$20.00 Grades, now \$16.50

\$22.50 & \$25 Grades, now \$19.50

\$28 & \$30 Grades, now \$23.50

And so on up including the finest \$35, \$40 and \$50 Garments correspondingly reduced.

SALE OF SEPARATE TROUSERS

Neat pin stripe and chalk line effects in worsted and cassimeres. Plain blue serge, corduroys, etc.

\$3.00 Grades, now \$2.50 \$4.00 Grades, now \$3.50

\$3.50 Grades, now \$3.00 \$5.00 Grades, now \$4.00

All higher priced Trousers reduced proportionately.

Open Saturdays Until 10 P. M.

15th and Chestnut

Other Stores in New York (2), Brooklyn, Boston, Providence, Buffalo and Detroit